

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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O R 111835Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SESTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5675

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2312

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT RESIGNS AS MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. GOES ANNOUNCED EVENING OF JUNE 10 THAT VICE PRES ENRIQUE MAYORGA RIVAS HAD RESIGNED FROM HIS POSITION AS MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY ALTHOUGH RETAINING HIS ELECTIVE POSITION AS VICE PRESIDENT. IN HIS RESIGNATION STATEMENT, MAYORGA SAID ONLY THAT HE WAS LEAVING THE POSITION TO GIVE PRES MOLINA A FREE HAND TO NAME A REPLACEMENT OF HIS CHOOSING. MOLINA ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION WITH REGRET AND WITH THANKS FOR MAYORGA'S SERVICES.

2. MORNING JUNE 11 PRESIDENT SWORE IN JUSTICE MINISTER DR. JOSE ENRIQUE SILVA, AS THE NEW MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY. JUSTICE SUB-SECRETARY DR. FABIO HERCULES PINEDA WAS NAMED TO REPLACE SILVA. THERE IS NO INDICATION YET THAT MAYORGA RIVAS IS SLATED FOR ANOTHER APPOINTIVE POSITION (THE VICE PRESIDENCY ITSELF IS CONFIDENTIAL

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A NON-JOB) AND PRESS SPECULATION THAT HE MIGHT BE NAMED AMBASSADOR

TO THE US OR GREAT BRITAIN WAS DENIED BY OFFICIAL SOURCES.

3. MAYORGA RIVAS' DEPARTURE FROM THE CABINET COMES AS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE TO MOST OBSERVERS. A PROTEGE OFFORMER PRESIDENT SANCHEZ HERNANDEZ, HE HAS HELD ESSENTIALLY THE SAME CABINET SLOT SINCE 1967. IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE JOLINA ADMINISTRATION HE WAS RUMORED TO BE RATHER UNHAPPY WITH HIS JOB. HOWEVER THE PRESIDENT UPPED THE RANK OF THE POSITION TO CABINET LEVEL IN JANUARY 1973 (IT WAS PREVIOUSLY CALLED SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY) WHICH MAY HAVE CONVINCED HIM TO STAY ON. HE HAS BEEN REGARDED AS ONE OF MOLINA'S CLOSEST CIVILIAN CONFIDANTS, HAS SERVED AS A KEY POLITICAL ADVISER AND AS A LINK BETWEEN THE GOVT AND BUSINESS AND BANKING COMMUNITIES. HIS VIEWS HAVE GENERALLY TENDED TO BE CONSERVATIVE. AT THIS POINT WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ABOUT THE CAUSE OF HIS DEPARTURE. AS IN THE CASE OF PREVIOUS CABINET SHIFTS, HE MAY SIMPLY HAVE DISAGREED WITH SOME ASPECT OF PRESIDENTIAL POLICIES AND PARTED COMPANY ON THE ISSUE. (MOLINA HAS OFTEN STATED THAT HIS GOVT WORKS AS A TEAM WHEN A MEMBER OF THE TEAM CANNOT AGREE; HE LEAVES WITH NO HARD FEELINGS). THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN UNCONFIRMED REPORTS IN THE RECENT PAST THAT MOLINA MAY HAVE GEBUN TO QUESTION THE DEGREE OF MAYORGA'S LOYALTY.

4. THE ARMED FORCES HAVE NEVER BEEN VERY FOND OF MAYORGA WHOM THEY CONSIDER TO BE "ANTI-MILITARY" AND WILL WELCOME HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL INNER CIRCLE. HOWEVMR, WA HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE MILITARY PUSHED FOR THE RESIGNATION.

5. THE NEW MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY, SILVA, IS WELL KNOWN TO US AND VERY FRIENDLY. ALTHOUGH AN ACTIVE LEFTIST IN HIS STUDENT DAYS, SILVA HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CONSERVATIVE IN RECENT YEARS AND, AS SECRETARY OF JUSTICE, PUT THE LEGAL STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE GOVT'S 1972 INTERVENTION OF THE UES WHERE HE HAD ONCE BEEN BICE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF LAW.
CAMPBELL

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